

To: Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]
From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Thur 9/24/2015 5:40:06 PM
Subject: Re: Q&A on Winter Treatment

The latest is the one in the thread.

Sorry I didn't get you language today, I got sick and have been offline.

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

On Sep 24, 2015, at 12:59 PM, "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov> wrote:

Are you the keeper of the latest QA document?

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Deitz, Randy
Cc: Ostrander, David; Stalcup, Dana; Foster, Althea; Mahmud, Shahid; Fitz-James, Schatzi
Subject: Re: Q&A on Winter Treatment

David, I have an idea about language that might help answer this question. I'll send you something to noodle with in the morning.

Christie St. Clair

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

o: 202-564-2880

m: 202-768-5780

On Sep 23, 2015, at 6:57 PM, "Deitz, Randy" <Deitz.Randy@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks David, believe me, I am not advocating for trying to address multi-mines with the interim treatment, but I suspect we will get the question - as long as we are up there setting up a plant, why don't we try to treat as much of the mine discharges as we can. Thanks again.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2015, at 6:47 PM, "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov> wrote:

As to treating other mine discharges, we would need to size a larger treatment system with increased costs. Also, the mine discharges have to be captured through a pipe to the treatment system. We would find ourselves in a longer term situation as to why we will treat all we can. Is HQ ready to fund under removal a larger cost treatment system for multiple years? We go down this path of showing the community we can fund and treat however large a system we are willing to pay for with no agreement with the state or others on O&M. Why do we need to consider NPL listing if we can do all the work under removal. I don't think this is a good path to go down. We would need to design and build a permanent treatment plant at a cost of somewhere around 10 to 20 million with at least \$1 mil per year in operating costs. That becomes a big commitment for removal. We should consider pursuing other alternatives like the bulk heading and reducing flows and hopefully we can get reductions in AMD discharges to Cement Creek. But that becomes a longer term proposition. Any benefits we see from treating over the winter, if any we can measure, will be reversed once we stop treating during low flows. High flows in the spring dilute the impact of mine discharges and any treatment we would do during spring runoff would not be measurable. For now, we have the backup of working on the mine site and need to treat while we are mucking around in the mine. After we are done with that, we are faced with a decision to do interim treatment until a final NPL remedy is done or return the drainage to conditions before we started this work until a remedy decision is in place.

I am making changes in the Q&A related to your other comments.

Thanks

From: StClair, Christie
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:30 PM
To: Deitz, Randy
Cc: Stalcup, Dana; Foster, Althea; Mahmud, Shahid; Fitz-James, Schatzi; Ostrander, David
Subject: Re: Q&A on Winter Treatment

Looping David who can probably update the language accordingly.

From: Deitz, Randy
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 4:23 PM
To: StClair, Christie
Cc: Stalcup, Dana; Foster, Althea; Mahmud, Shahid; Fitz-James, Schatzi
Subject: Re: Q&A on Winter Treatment

There are concerns about the permitting response. I would rather say something like - to avoid delays in responding to the release of hazardous substances, CERCLA does not require permits for Superfund response actions. As to why we are treating the discharge, can't we be more forthright and say to reduce the heavy metal pollutants from the mine water discharge. And I could anticipate a question on why we aren't treating the discharge from other nearby mines as long as we are standing up a treatment plant. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 23, 2015, at 3:08 PM, "StClair, Christie"
<StClair.Christie@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Althea, Dana and Randy,

I'd like to use these Q&As to respond to media inquiries on the wastewater treatment plant.

Release will send at 3:30 eastern.

Could you take a look at David's draft and redline any changes you would like made?

Thanks,

Christie

Christie St. Clair

US EPA Office of Public Affairs

c: 202-768-5780

From: McGrath, Shaun
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 3:02 PM
To: StClair, Christie; Purchia, Liz
Subject: Q&A on Winter Treatment

Christie and Liz,

Here is a draft Q&A that was developed by David Ostrander on the winter treatment. IT HAS NOT BEEN VETTED BY INCIDENT COMMAND OR ANYONE AT HQ, so it is probably not ready to share yet more broadly. Let me know how you'd like to proceed with it.

Shaun

<Gold King Mine Release.docx>